

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) says residents on the Central Coast will be major beneficiaries under the health insurance reform expected to be voted on soon by the House of Representatives.

"From Hollister to Monterey, from Salinas to Santa Cruz, residents of the Central Coast will be big winners with this legislation," Rep. Farr said. "It's long overdue that families in our communities receive the stable coverage they deserve."

Among the effects health insurance reform legislation will have on the Central Coast include:

- Extend coverage to 85,500 currently uninsured residents of the Central Coast.
- Provide tax credits and other assistance to 132,000 families and 13,500 small businesses to help them afford coverage.
- Improve Medicare for 78,000 beneficiaries, including closing the coverage donut hole.
- Extend coverage to 85,500 currently uninsured residents.
- Guarantee that 15,300 residents with pre-existing conditions can obtain coverage.
- Protect 1,600 families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs.
- Allow 62,000 young adults to obtain coverage on their parents' insurance plans.
- Provide millions of dollars in new funding for 29 community health centers.
- Reduce the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and other health care providers by \$52 million annually.

The data are contained in analysis released by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

"This bill will have far-reaching benefits, helping elderly residents afford their drugs and our youngest neighbors to be fully covered in case of trouble," Rep. Farr said. "Passing this bill would be one of the single most important achievements in my almost 17 years in Congress, and a vote that I will be very proud of."

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